

Tenterden Forum

Notes from Meeting:

Date: 2 June 2011

Venue: Tenterden Town Hall

Attendance:

Chairman: Mike Hill, Paul Clokie, Frances Smith, Phil Carley, Tom Newbury, John Link and Ed Hoad.

Actions from last meeting:

- see attached report about Detached Youth Work from Ian Brooks that was not available at the meeting.
- Supported bus services are at risk of being cut in January 2012. Savings will be implemented after consultations have finished on 1 July. Parish Council should comment ASAP. Paul Clokie agreed to write a response. Details about Wealden Wheels were discussed. Parish Councils might want to organize village transport with this community transport operation or organize some thing similar.
- The greens and the fallen leaves that were destroying the grass is still an ongoing issue. KCC will be reducing the cuttings of all greens. Tenterden would like to take the budget and do the job themselves with their own grounds men.

Highways issues:

Parking around Pittlesden was now less an issue as the station car park had doubled its parking capacity. The bund was not practicable. Small white dolly posts might still be needed at some time in the future.

The reduction in speed limits on the A28 at St Michael's and Appledore had been agreed.

No new works will be done at East Cross but the zigzag markings outside Rolvenden Primary school will happen.

Parking remains a major issue in much of the district. Frances Smith told the meeting of her concerns for Appledore (see attached statement).

Mr Hill invited Frances to investigate the three possible suitable areas for new parking, cost them and come back to the forum again.

There were similar issues in Rolvenden and Ed Hoad was asked to look at possible parking sites and, although funding would be an issue, the forum could look at this at some time in the future.

Whilst the limited parking spaces for new housing were abolished by ABC for rural areas still too many new homes with integral garages were being converted to living space which forces more cars to park on roads. It was suggested new builds should have car ports to help prevent this.

Traffic speeding could be reduced with the help of mobile interactive speed cameras and perhaps these could be purchased and shared between Parish Councils. The CEM will find out costs and report back.

Tenterden issues

Parking remains a problem in Tenterden with its high parking fees which put many drivers off paying the charges. This will be raised at the next JTB. Perhaps a discount for people working in Tenterden could be given and more restrictions placed on side street parking.

There was a new parking issue in Beacon Oak Road. Mike Hill said he would look at the problem and maybe Highways needed to mark the road with yellow lines.

The results of the Tenterden youth survey were interesting. High on the list of wants by young people were a cinema, disco and youth café. A skate park was ranked lower than other issues because of the bias of the girls in the survey.

Community Safety/Policing

Tom gave an overview of the new police plans. The new operational model puts neighbourhood policing at the heart of what the police do. A 50 per cent increase in neighbourhood teams demonstrates the commitment to ensuring that the police respond to demand and meet the needs of the public. The number of policing areas will be reduced from six to three; the streamlining of service will ensure that resources are available where and when they are most needed. As part of the commitment to maintaining a high quality and visible frontline service the new operational framework will see the service moving to a 'borderless' system. This will mean that the nearest and most appropriate patrol will attend an incident.

The neighbourhood officers could attend Parish Council AGMs next April if dates could be given ASAP. Inspector Andy Judd will be invited to the next meeting.

The next meeting will be planned for Sept/Oct 2011

Update on Tenterden Detached Youth Project

1. Longfield: ABC Hope to approve funding for update of play area in June, which young people have worked towards over the past three years.
2. New Detached work to start in Tilden Gill, Shrubcote, to help address young people playing in the road.
3. Pavilion going well, 50% known to the police, issues are dropping with these young people. Plus opening up for a band practice evening.
4. Woodchurch: Club once a month, with Community Warden back we plan to look at twice a month. But need funding.
5. Wittersham: Planning to work with new community Warden to look at issues in the area, and needs of the young people.
6. Biddenden: Going well twice a month with volunteers, but can only use hall once a month.
7. Rolvenden: Running very well with volunteers, helping with support once a month and planning trips for the young people.
8. High Halden: Doing twice monthly detached in the area, plus working with Community Warden with an arts project on the bus shelter.
9. Smarden: Helping to develop the work with the older young people and supporting the club with issue based work.
10. Homewood School: D of E we have 50+ Bronze 20+ Silver and around 9 doing Gold. We have got funding for a Safe zone in school working with sixth form students. This is run from the Community room, but the school has provided a set room which is being painted and new carpet. KCFN have offered more funding. The school is providing £10000-£12000 for us to run project with young people like the Take up the Challenge self esteem programme. New project to repair the green house and develop work with inclusion unit and involve young people at risk.